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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

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#### DEPARTMENT DEFERS FWS REORGANIZATION PENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton today announced that, because Congress is considering legislation affecting the Fish and Wildlife Service, administrative reorganization of that Service, scheduled to go into effect July 1, had been temporarily deferred, with the President's approval.

The Department has been working out details of the reorganization plan since June 4, when a White House directive spelled out the objectives of the Administration's proposal to provide new forms of assistance to the commercial fishing industry and to bolster other services performed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Secretary Seaton said the Department had decided to postpone completion of the reorganization until Congress has had an opportunity to act on pending legislation designed to accomplish essentially the same things as the administration's program.

The Secretary said H. R. 11570 is generally in accord with the President's program.

"In view of the fact that the Congress is now considering legislation that would, among other things, provide for the reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife Service to include a bureau for wildlife and sport fishing and a bureau of commercial fisheries, it would seem best at this time for the Department to delay effectuating its own reorganization plan beyond the originally contemplated July 1, target date," Seaton said.

"This is a complex problem and it is the President's desire that the Department of the Interior and other interested Federal agencies cooperate to the utmost with the Congress in working out the best possible solution to the problem," he added.

In addition to providing for reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife Service, H. R. 11570, as reported by the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, calls for establishment within the Department of the Interior of an Assistant Secretary to have supervision of fisheries and wildlife and a Commissioner of Fish

and Wildlife. Other significant features of the bill are a revolving loan fund and a continuation of the Saltonstall-Kennedy program which would eliminate the present \$3,000,000 limitation on funds for fisheries research and other projects. The act is due to expire next year.

The administration's proposed legislation, submitted to Congress on June 7, provided for a \$10,000,000 revolving loan fund for the maintenance and repair of commercial fishing vessels and for liberalization of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act.

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